

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 278960

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01

PM-03 PRS-01 BIB-01 /031 R

66620

DRAFTED BY:DOD:RJGRUNAWALT:CB

APPROVED BY:EUR/CAN:EMBROWN

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R 201948Z DEC 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

INFO AMCONSUL ST JOHNS

SECDEF WASH DC

CSAF WASHDC

SAC OFFUTT AFB NE/OI

2AF BARKSDALE AFB LA/OI

45AD PEASE NH/OI

95 SW GOOSE AB CN/OI/CC

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E.O. 11652:

TAGS: ETEL, CA US

SUBJECT: GOOSE BAY AMERICAN FORCES RADIO STATION

1. THE GOOSE BAY AMERICAN FORCES RADIO STATION AS BEEN
OFF THE AIR SINCE 6 DEC. 74. IT WAS DIRECTED TO CEASE
OPERATIONS BY THE AIR FORCE FREQUENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE
AFTER NOTIFICATION FROM THE CANADIAN DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNI-
CATIONS (DOC) THROUGH THE NATIONAL DEFENSE HQS THAT THE
STATION WAS OPERATING WITHOUT PROPER CANADIAN AUTHORIZATION.
THE ISSUE AROSE AS A RESULT OF A VISIT TO THE STATION IN
NOVEMBER BY A DOC FIELD ENGINEER, WHO FOUND THAT THE STATION
WAS BROADCASTING A RADIATED SIGNAL OF 50 WATTS POWER AT
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PAGE 02 STATE 278960

640KHZ ON THE AM BAND WITHOUT APPROVAL.

2. USAF AUTHORITIES AT GOOSE HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN A STATEMENT OF CANADIAN NON-OBJECTION TO STATION RETURNING TO THE AIR ON A TEMPORARY BASIS PENDING NEGOTIATIONS OF A FORMAL AGREEMENT ON THE MATTER. THE ISSUE HAS ESCALATED FROM MR. J.R. VALIQUETTE, MANAGER OF OPERATIONS OF THE DOC REGIONAL OFFICE AT MONCTON, NB TO OTTAWA WHERE IT IS BEING CONSIDERED BY COMMUNICATIONS CANADA AND THE CANADIAN RADIO AND TELEVISION COMMISSION. KEY INDIVIDUAL APPEARS TO BE MR. H. CORBETT, CHIEF OF THE APPLICATIONS DIVISION OF THE R/TV COMMISSION.

3. NO FORMAL AGREEMENT HAS EVER BEEN NEGOTIATED WITH CANADA FOR THIS AFRS STATION ALTHOUGH IT HAS BEEN OPERATING IN ITS PRESENT MODE SINCE 1971 WITH CANADIAN KNOWLEDGE. DURING U.S./CANADIAN NEGOTIATIONS ON THE CURRENT BASE USE AGREEMENT WHICH RUNS UNTIL 30 JUNE 76, AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE WAS REACHED BY THE NEGOTIATORS TO PHASE OUT AMERICAN FORCES RADIO OPERATIONS BUT NO SPECIFIC TIMETABLE WAS SET AND THE FINAL AGREEMENT DOES NOT CONTAIN ANY REFERENCE TO THE RADIO STATION.

4. THE GOOSE AFRS STATION IS THE ONLY UP-TO-DATE LINK FOR NEWS FROM THE U.S. FOR PERSONNEL STATIONED THERE. THERE ARE NO DAILY NEWSPAPERS AT GOOSE BAY. CANADIAN BROADCAST FACILITIES THERE INCLUDE A CBC RADIO AFFILIATE (CFGB-AM), HUMBER VALLEY BROADCASTING LTD STATION CFLN-AM, AND A CBC-TV STATION. CBC RADIO IS ALMOST ENTIRELY EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL AND NEWS IS EXCLUSIVELY CBC WIRE SERVICE AND CANADIAN ORIENTED WITH A SMATTERING OF INTERNATIONAL NEWS. THE HUMBER VALLEY STATION RECEPTION IS VERY POOR ON GOOSE BAY AIRPORT WHERE ENTIRE AMERICAN COMMUNITY LIVES AND WORKS. STATION HAS MUSIC FORMAT WITH NEWS FROM CANADIAN NATIONAL TELEX SERVICE WITH ABOUT 50 PERCENT LOCAL CONTENT AND 50 PERCENT NATIONAL CANADIAN AND NEWFOUNDLAND NEWS, AND NO NEWS OF AMERICAN INTEREST. SPORTS COVERAGE CAPABILITY IS NIL. THE CBC-TV NEWS IS ALSO HEAVILY ORIENTED TO CANADIAN LOCAL AND NATIONAL NEWS CARRYING ONLY THOSE U.S. STORIES OF INTERNATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE ALTHOUGH LIMITED U.S. SPORTING EVENTS ARE TELECAST. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 278960

BOTH CBC AND CFLN GENERAL MANAGERS HAVE INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO AIR ANNOUNCEMENTS OF EMERGENCY NATURE FOR U.S., BUT BOTH HAVE TAKEN POSITION AGAINST MODIFYING FORMAT TO INCLUDE REGULAR U.S. ORIENTED PROGRAMMING.

5. IN CONTACTS WITH THE GOOSE INFORMATION OFFICER, THE LOCAL MANAGERS FOR THE CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORP (MR. BERT DAWE) AND HUMBER VALLEY RADIO STATION CFLN (MR. JIM

MCGRAW) HAVE BOTH INDICATED SUPPORT FOR CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE AFRS STATION AND VOICED NO COMPLAINTS ABOUT INTERFERENCE OR COMPETITION WITH THEIR OPERATIONS. THEY INDICATED THEY INTENDED TO PASS THEIR VIEWS ON TO THE DOC. THESE COMMENTS WERE UNSOLICITED AND APPEAR TO BE SINCERE.

6. WITH THE ABOVE INFORMATION, AS BACKGROUND, EMBASSY IS REQUESTED CONTACT APPROPRIATE CANADIAN OFFICIALS AND SEEK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AT LEAST A VERBAL STATEMENT OF NON-OBJECTION TO ALLOW AFRS GOOSE TO RESUME BROADCAST OPERATIONS. EMBASSY SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT SUCH AGREEMENT WOULD ONLY BE NECESSARY TO COVER THE REMAINDER OF THE PRESENT BASE USE AGREEMENT AND WE WOULD ESTABLISH A TIMETABLE TO INSURE THAT STATION IS PHASED OUT BY 30 JUNE 76. EMBASSY'S PROMPT ASSISTANCE WITH GOAL OF RESUMPTION OF BROADCAST OPERATIONS DURING CHRISTMAS SEASON, IF POSSIBLE, WILL BE APPRECIATED ESPECIALLY BY THE 1800 AMERICAN PERSONNEL AND DEPENDENTS STATIONED AT GOOSE BAY. KISSINGER

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